

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following paragraph:

A disadvantage with such systems is that a ram is required to displace food product items to the receptacle, which adds to the cost and ~~shows~~slows the operation of the device. Accordingly, there is a need for filler head system and method that maximizes the filling of the receptacle. There is also a need for an efficient system and method for rapidly filling a receptacle with multiple layers of food items such as frankfurters.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following paragraph:

As shown in Fig. 3, the filler head of the present invention also includes a pair of tucking flaps, 32, 34 that are positioned above the receptacle 16 and include notches 33 shaped to provide clearance so that the flaps may rotate below horizontal into the cavities 14. The tucking flaps 32, 34 are elongated panels attached to rods 38. The rods 38 are rotated about their longitudinal axes by a linear actuator, such as a hydraulic, pneumatic or electric actuator and linkage (not shown). Consequently, the flaps 32, 34 rotate between an open position, in which the flaps are oriented substantially vertically, and a closed position, in which the flaps are oriented substantially horizontally (shown in phantom in Fig. 3). Flaps 32, 34 are tiered to cycle over layers 10, 12 of frankfurters that have passed in order to maintain the alignment of product shown. If, for example, a frankfurter 24' (shown in phantom) is out of alignment, when the tucking flaps 32, 34 pivot they will bring the frankfurter into alignment.

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following paragraph:

An accumulation and storage area ~~62~~64 is located directly beneath the staging area 48 and includes a plurality of dividers 66 that are fixed to the filler head frame 67 and positioned to correspond to the spacing between the lugs 62 of the lug chain 60 and hence correspond to the width of groups 52, 54, 56 of frankfurters. The accumulation and storage area 64 also

includes retractable rods 20, 22 (see Figs. 2, 4A, and 5) to support the collected frankfurters. The tucking flaps 32, 34 (see Fig. 3) are positioned below the rods and above the receptacle 16, located in a packing area 69.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following paragraph:

The operation of the filler head 40 is substantially continuous. However the lug chain 58 operates intermittently, pausing momentarily when groups 52, 54, 56 are positioned as shown in Fig. 4 in order to allow for the pairs of rods 50, 51 to ~~be~~be cycled to allow the group 52-56 of frankfurters to fall downwardly into the accumulation and storage area 64.